

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00776 251717Z

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1240

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EUR/SE DIRECTOR

FOR EAGLETON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CY US CA UN

SUBJ: APPRECIATION FOR CANCON ASSISTANCE JANUARY 18

1. I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE CANADIANS FOR THEIR

UNFICYP CONTINGENT'S STAND-BY ASSISTANCE DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF JANUARY 18-20. THERE WAS A MOMENT JAN 18 WHEN THE CANCON VEHICLES COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONLY SAFE MEANS OF DEPARTING THE EMBASSY AREA. GENERAL CLAY BEATTIE, WHOM YOU MET AT THE UNFICYP BRIEFING, WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. THE CANADIANS WERE VERY RESPONSIVE IN JULY-AUGUST 1974 AND HAVE AGREED TO ASSIST US IN THE EVENT OF DISORDERS IN THE FUTURE. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC FINESSE ON CANCON'S PART VIS-A-VIS THE GOC. CANADIANS, AS A RESULT, ARE NOW ACTING AT GOC'S REQUEST.

2. IT STRIKES ME THAT A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, MR. JAMES RICHARDSON, MIGHT BE THE BEST CHANNEL FOR EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION, BUT PLEASE HANDLE IN WHATEVER MEANS YOU DEEM MOST SUITABLE. TEXT OF MESSAGE WHICH MIGHT BE USED BY SECDEF FOLLOWS.

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3. BEGIN SUGGESTED TEXT: I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRE-

CIATION TO THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR THE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RENDERED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NICOSIA BY THE UNFICYP CANADIAN CONTINGENT ON 18 JAN 75. ON THAT DAY AN UNRESTRAINED GREEK-CYPRIOT CROWD ATTACKED OUR EMBASSY HURLING ROCKS, RAMSACKING SEVERAL ROOMS AND SETTING FIRE TO ONE WING OF THE BUILDING, THEREBY THREATENING THE SAFETY OF 20 AMERICAN PERSONNEL. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE CROWD WAS OUT OF CONTROL AND THAT CYPRIOT POLICE WERE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PROTECT, THE EMBASSY CALLED ON UNFICYP FOR STAND-BY ASSISTANCE. THE UN FORCE RESPONDED BY SENDING A CANADIAN TASK GROUP IN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WHICH WAS POSITIONED FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF THE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH ORDER WAS EVENTUALLY RESTORED AND THE EMBASSY NOT EVACUATED, THE ARRIVAL OF THE CANADIAN TASK GROUP WAS INDEED REASSURING. HAD THE SITUATION DETERIORATED FURTHER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL TO THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL. THE MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED BY THE CANADIAN TASK GROUP REFLECTS MOST FAVORABLY ON THOSE INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND WAS IN THE BEST TRADITION OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY SERVICE. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLIMENT BG CLAY BEATTIE, CANCON COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF STAFF UNFICYP, FOR HIS CAREFUL, POLITICALLY ASTUTE HANDLING OF THIS DELICATE TASK. ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY NICOSIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, I TRANSMIT WARM THANKS TO YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF CANCON, UNFICYP. END TEXT.

CRAWFORD

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